IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

10/825.959 Appl. No.: Applicant: Hruschak, et al. Filed: April 16, 2004

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE SLOT WIDTH IN

TUBULAR MEMBERS

Confirmation No.: 8213

Group Art Unit: 3725

Examiner: Tolan, Edward Thomas

Docket No : 44-03

Customer No.: 23713

CERTIFICATE OF FES-WEB FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed with the USPTO EFS-WEB system.

July 6, 2006 Date

/ronaldfriedland/ Ronald Friedland

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner of Patents

P O Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 6, 2006, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and provide the following response. This Amendment is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time (one month), a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with references and payment of the necessary fees.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 15 of this paper.